

**Levesque, Edmond**  
**Lance Corporal**  
**Carleton and York Regiment**  
**Royal Canadian Infantry Corps**  
**G.16356**



Personal information:

Edmond Levesque was born on April 22, 1924, in Edmundston, New Brunswick. He was the fourth out of eight children of Rene and Anna Levesque. Edmond had to take a five km walk to school every day. Due to this he only made it to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade before quitting. As a result of his poor education Edmond had a hard time reading and writing, they used to call him an illiterate. Despite his reading problems Edmond could speak both English and French fluently.

Edmond lived with his parents on a farm in Albertine, New Brunswick, where he was raised as a catholic. After he had quit school, he started working as a farmhand on the farm of Pete Price in the north of Edmundston. He worked there until he volunteered to join the army in 1941.

When Edmond enlisted in the Canadian army he was still single. He met his future wife, Lea Marie Elizabeth D'Eon, during his time in Camp Aldershot. The couple married on March 2, 1943, in Wolfville, Nova Scotia.

His wife moved back to her birth village West Pubnico, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia after Edmond was deployed to Europe. On February 2, 1944, she gave birth to a daughter, Clodette Marie Levesque.

### Military information:

Edmond enlisted in the Canadian Army on August 7, 1941 in his birth village Edmundston, New Brunswick. He was 18 years old and single. At the time of his enlistment he was five foot four and weighed 124 pounds. He had blue eyes and had a fair hair colour.

Edmond started his military career with the No.7-A District Depo in Woodstock, New Brunswick. This is where his basic training began. After three weeks he was transferred to Camp Aldershot in Nova Scotia to continue his training. He started his follow-up training on August 29 1941, with the 71<sup>st</sup> basic training centre. After two months he completed his basic training and was transferred to the A14 Infantry Training Centre.

After a year he also completed the infantry training and was transferred to the administrative wing of A14 ITG on October 27, 1942. Almost a year later, on 26 August 1943, Edmond leaves Camp Aldershot behind to embark on his journey to Europe. They leave Canada a day later on August 27, 1943, and head for England.

The journey takes six days and on September 1, 1943, Edmond sets foot on English soil for the first time. On October 7, 1943, he is transferred to the 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit in England. It takes until March 25, 1944, before he is send into combat. His destination is the frontline in Italy where he is taken on strength by the Carleton & York Regiment.

The Carleton & York Regiment was first sent into battle during the amphibious landing of Sicily on July 10, 1943, and had been fighting its way through Italy since then. Edmond is sent to reinforce the regiment which suffered severe casualties during the battle. Edmond fights with the Carleton & York in Italy for almost a year until march 19, 1945. The regiment is part of Operation Goldflake and is sent up to Northern Europe to take part in the liberation of the Netherlands.

A couple of days later the regiment arrives in the Netherlands. Here they are taking part in the liberation of Apeldoorn. Edmond stays in the Netherlands until he is killed in action on April 22, 1945, during the liberation of Hoogland.

Edmond received the following awards for his part in the liberation of occupied Europe:

- 1939-45 Star
- Italy Star
- France Germany Star
- Defence medal
- War Medal, 1939-45
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & Clasp

#### The last days:

The Carleton & York Regiment enters Hoogland from the already liberated town of Nijkerk. The small hamlets around Hoogland are liberated on April 20, 1945, with little resistance. On April 22, 1945, A and B Company are trying to push forward, but they hit a pack of Germans defending the river Eem who are not willing to give up. During that night a fierce fire fight forces the Canadians to retreat. On both sides men are wounded and killed. After the fire fight the Germans shell the town of Hoogland with artillery fire. Edmond Levesque is assumed to have been severely injured during these actions.

After the battle the Canadian wounded are evacuated to the already liberated hamlet Langenoord. The kitchen of the parish house of the Sint-Martinus church is used as a first aid station. Two wounded soldiers are brought in by jeep during the night of April 22/23. One of these wounded men is Edmond Levesque. Despite the help of the residents the two men died during the night from their injuries.

Edmond Levesque's official date of death is April 22, 1945. He is killed in action on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday during the liberation of Hoogland. He is buried with three other casualties of the Carleton & York regiment at the graveyard of the Sint-Martinus Church in Langenoord. After the funeral, the graves are covered with flowers by the grateful inhabitants of Hoogland.

Edmond's wife received a short telegram on May 1, 1945, with the message that her husband was killed in action during the liberation of northern Europe. Three days later the official letter from the army confirms this message.

He got killed on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday...

After the end of the war the temporary graves are removed and the remains are laid to rest in the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek on October 3, 1945. Edmond is buried side by side with his regimental comrades.

Lance corporal Edmond Levesque is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **XIV. H. 10.**

inscription on his gravestone:

"ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO HIM, O LORD;  
AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON HIM"

Edmond's name is mentioned on a monument in the Carleton & York Regiment Memorial Park in New Brunswick.



Life story: Jacco Langenberg, Research Team Faces To Graves.

Sources:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
Library and Archives Canada  
[mynewbrunswick.ca/carleton-york-regiment-memorial-park](http://mynewbrunswick.ca/carleton-york-regiment-memorial-park)  
[wartimeheritage.com/whawwii/whawwii\\_levesque\\_edmond](http://wartimeheritage.com/whawwii/whawwii_levesque_edmond)  
Jannis McCahill voor de foto's van de graven



*Edmund Levesque's grave is the 3<sup>rd</sup> on the left. Photo: Canadian Virtual War Memorial.*

Edmond Levesque was temporarily buried along with three other soldiers of the Carleton & York Regiment, Private William James Mennie, Private Lawrence Howard Thompson en Private James Jamieson, at the cemetery of the Sint-Martinuschurch in Langenoord. After the funeral, the four graves were covered with flowers by the grateful inhabitants of Hoogland.



*The current grave in Groesbeek – photo Frans van Cappellen*





May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 a plaque was unveiled in Hoogland with the names of the soldiers, killed during the liberation of Hoogland.



William Hartman, chairman 'Oranjecomité Hoogland'.

**TER HERINNING AAN DE VIJF CANADESE  
SOLDATEN DIE VOOR ONZE VRIJHEID  
ZIJN GESNEUVELD IN HOOGLAND**

<b>William James Mennie (CYR)</b>	
09-02-1920	20-04-1945
<b>Edmond Lévesque (CYR)</b>	
22-04-1924	22-04-1945
<b>James Jamieson (CYR)</b>	
18-05-1918	22-04-1945
<b>Lawrence Howard Thompson (CYR)</b>	
03-02-1918	24-04-1945
<b>Francis Joseph Burke Fitzgerald (WNSR)</b>	
24-09-1922	28-04-1945